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Pewsey
Rural District Council

MEDICAL OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1947

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit—on behalf of Dr. A. H. Wilson, who retired on 31st December, 1947—the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Administration of your district, for the year 1947.

This report is brief, and is in accordance with instructions received from the Ministry of Health in their circular 13/47 dated 13th March, 1947.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance given by the Sanitary Inspector in compiling this report.

I have the honour to remain,
Your obedient servant,
D. L. JOHNSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

Rudge Farm House,
Froxfield, Marlborough.

VITAL STATISTICS

I. Population—Census 1931 14,292
„ —Estimated Mid 1947 ... 13,780
Area ... ... 75,828 acres
Rateable Value £102,269
Sum represented by Penny Rate ... £431 4s. 3d.
Number of Inhabited Houses as shown by Rate Books at the end of 1947 ... 3,893

II.

Births 1947	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Live	174	153	327 (21 illegitimate)
Still	—	3	3 (0 illegitimate)

Birth Rate 1947	*Rural District*	*England & Wales*
Live	23.7	20.5
Still	0.2	0.5

III.

Deaths 1947	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
	75	77	152

Death Rate 1947	*Rural District*	*England & Wales*
	11.0	12.0

IV. *Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age*

Male	*Female*	*Total*
10	7	17 (1 illegitimate)

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births)	*Rural District*	*England & Wales*
	52.0	41.0

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	*Total cases Notified*	*Cases admitted to Hospital*	*Total death*
Scarlet Fever	13 (1 Mil)	4	0
Diphtheria	1	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	1	0
Pneumonia	4 (1 Mil)	0	0
Erysipelas	2	0	0
Measles	90 (4 Mil)	0	0
Whooping Cough	29	0	1
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	3	0
Opthalmia Neonatorum	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	6 (3 Mil)	3	1
Polio Enceph.	1	1	0
Typhoid	1 (Mil)	1	0
Dysentery	40 (1 Mil)	0	0
Malaria	1 (Mil)	0	0

Scarlet Fever. 13 cases were notified, including one military case. There were four admissions to hospital.

Diphtheria. 1 case of Diphtheria was notified in a year-old Polish child. It was successfully treated in Salisbury Isolation Hospital.

Puerperal Pyrexia. 2 cases were notified, and one was admitted to hospital.

Pneumonia. There were 4 notifications, one a military case, but none were fatal.

Erysipelas. There were two notifications.

Measles. 90 cases were notified, 4 being military ones: the majority occurred in Pewsey during the summer months.

Whooping Cough. 29 cases were notified, they occurred in various parts of the district. One case proved fatal.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever. 3 cases were notified. Two children from the same family were admitted to Salisbury Infirmary, and an infant to Savernake Hospital. There were no deaths.

Poliomyelitis. 6 cases were notified, three being military. The three civilian cases were admitted to hospital. There was one death.

Typhoid. One case of Typhoid was notified from the Polish Hospital at Everleigh, the patient having been admitted from outside the district. The patient recovered.

Dysentery. 40 cases were notified. One case occurred in February in the Polish unit at Everleigh. The remaining cases were among inmates of Pewsey Colony, and occurred in August and September. The outbreak was localised to two blocks, and no further cases occurred during the last three months of the year. There were no deaths.

Malaria. One military case was notified.

TUBERCULOSIS

Twenty-six new cases were notified, the details being as follows :—

Male, Pulmonary,	1 age 10	Female, Pulmonary,	1 age 6
	1 ,, 23		1 ,, 17
	1 ,, 24		1 ,, 19
	1 ,, 26		2 ,, 27
	1 ,, 27		1 ,, 28
	1 ,, 29		1 ,, 41
	2 ,, 32		1 ,, 42
	1 ,, 40		1 ,, 43
	1 ,, 45		1 ,, 47
	1 ,, 49		1 ,, 57
	1 ,, 54		
	1 ,, 55		
Male, Non-Pulm.,	1 age 5	Female, Non-Pulm.,	1 age 33
	2 ,, 9		
	1 ,, 26		

There were six deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis during the year, and one death from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

During 1947 142 children under 5, and 20 between 5 and 15 were immunised against diphtheria, and 126 children received re-inforcement doses. This brings the total number of children who have been immunised to 2631 out of an estimated under-fifteen population of 3350.

WATER SUPPLY

The supply and condition of water in the Pewsey area remains very much as it was in 1946. Two of the larger parishes, Ludgershall and Pewsey, have a public supply; the remainder obtain their water from wells, boreholes, or local farm supplies. A pumping test was carried out at the borehole sunk at Collingbourne Kingston: it is hoped that this water will supply the parishes of Collingbourne Kingston and Collingbourne Ducis. A Ministry of Health Inquiry was held at the Pewsey R.D.C. Offices in December, and the Council put before it proposals for a water supply to the whole District.

A number of samples were taken during the year, none of which required subsequent action.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The drainage and sewerage system of Pewsey has given no trouble during the year, and, after test baiting, has again been proved to be free from rats. A start has been made in the provision of drainage to those houses not already connected to the sewer, but the big obstacle has been shortage of material, especially W.C. pans. The sewer ditches in the various parishes have been kept fairly clean, and, where necessary, disinfectant has been provided. The big difficulty in keeping these ditches clean is the shortage of labour.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Refuse and salvage was collected regularly, except during the months of February and March, when the exceptionally severe winter made some collections impossible. Delays have also been caused by the several breakdowns of the Karrier Refuse Vehicle

During the year 41 tons of material were salvaged, and sold for approximately £252 : 4 : 0. The decrease on the previous year was due to the depreciation of prices of baled tins.

Two ten-cubic-yard freighters and four men are employed on this work—two men less than in 1946.

MILK SUPPLIES

Three new wholesale produeers of milk were registered during the year, and a dairy licensed for the bottling of T.T. Milk. A considerable amount of work was carried out after talks with the farmers, but there was no need to serve any notices.

LEGAL ACTION

It was again unnecessary to resort to legal action during the year.

HOUSING

The great demand for houses continues, and although new houses have been built, bad cases of overcrowding still exist. During the year considerable time was spent on the inspection of huts taken over by squatters at Hedge End, Kangaroo Corner, Ludgershall, and also at Havering Lane, Milton.

Repairs to existing houses have been carried out, but shortages of labour and material have delayed the completion of the work.

All these repairs have been carried out either on verbal instructions, or as the result of an informal notice in the shape of a letter.

Very little work was carried out under the Rural Housing Survey during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

Under the Ministry of Food's N.S. 12 Scheme for Rat Destruction, Pewsey R.D.C combined with Marlborough Borough and Marlborough & Ramsbury R.D.C. to employ a Rodent Officer and his assistant. When the Scheme came to an end, Pewsey, R.D.C. decided that they would still provide free treatment for private households, and that there should be a charge for business premises. It was also decided that one Rodent Officer could cover the work. The N.S. 12 Scheme gave every satisfaction until it ceased to operate, and for the remainder of the year the Council's Scheme also worked very well.

MILK AND DAIRIES ETC.

Number of Wholesale Producers Registered 1947	176
Number of Retail Purveyors Registered 1947	71

MEAT AND FOODS

Weight of meat condemned during 1947	23,333 lbs.
Tinned foods condemned	235 tins
Other foods condemned	2,216 lbs.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS

INSPECTIONS	No. of Inspections 1	No. of Defects 2	Informal Notices 3	Statutory Notices 4	Remedied by 3 5	Remedied by 4 6	Remedied after verbal notice 7
Nuisances ...	310	87	25	22	20	1	46
Slaughterhouses	402	—	—	—	—	—	—
Knackers' Yards	26	1	—	—	—	—	1
Places where food is prepared ...	184	5	—	—	—	—	4
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	142	15	—	—	—	—	13
Tents, Vans and Sheds	111	1	—	—	—	—	1
Bakehouses ...	48	2	—	—	—	—	2
TOTALS	1223	111	25	22	20	1	67

Not classified above

Housing Inspections	20	
Infectious Diseases	22	
Unclassified Visits and Inspections, Water Samples, Drain Testing Refuse Collections, Bye-laws etc.	938	
	980	**Total Number of Visits 2203**

TOTAL CAUSES OF DEATH

CAUSES OF DEATH	M.	F.	CAUSES OF DEATH	M.	F.
All Causes	75	77	Diabetes		
Typhoid and Paratyphoid			Heart disease	20	23
Cerebro-Spinal Fever			Intra. cran. vasc. lesions	8	11
Scarlet Fever			Other disease circ. syst.	3	2
Whooping Cough	1		Bronchitis	1	
Diphtheria			Pneumonia	7	6
Tuberc. of Resp. System	4	2	Other resp. dis.		
Other Forms of Tuberc.		1	Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	2	1
Syphilitic Diseases			Diarrhœa under 2 years		1
Influenza			Appendicitis	1	
Measles			Other digest. diseases	3	1
Ac Poliomyelitis & Enceph.	1		Nephritis	4	2
Ac. Inf. Enceph.			Puerp. and Postabort. sepsis		1
Cancer of b. cav. ; and oesoph (M.) uterus (F.)	2		Other maternal causes		
			Prem. Birth	1	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	1	1	Cong. malf. birth inj. Inf. dis.	3	2
Cancer of breast		3	Suicide		1
Cancer of all other sites	8	8	Road Traffic Accidents	1	1
			Other violent causes		1
			All other causes	4	7

F. JAY & SON
BEDWIN STREET
SALISBURY